

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 JERUSA 00885 271426Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----004599 271429Z /46

O R 271325Z MAR 78
FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 617
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE
AEMBASSY CAIRO 2889
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
A/AMEMBASSY JIDDA 915
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USMISSION USUN NY IMMEDIATE
AEMBASSY STOCKHOLM 25

C O N F I D E N T I A L JERUSALEM 885

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PBOR, MARR, UNSC, IS, LE, XF
SUBJECT: DIFFICULTIES WITH COMMANDER OF SWEDISH UNIFIL CONTINGENT

1. UN HEADQUARTERS JERUSALEM HAS HAD DIFFICULTIES OVER PAST WEEK WITH COMMANDER OF SWEDISH REINFORCED COMPANY COMMITTED TO UNIFIL. COMMANDER, WHO IS FAMILIAR WITH TIDIER SITUATIONS SUCH AS UNEF AND UNDOF, WAS TOTALLY UNPREPARED FOR CHAOS HE HAS SEEN IN SOUTHERN LEBANON. HE HAS CONSISTENTLY? DURING RECENT DEPLOYMENT OF SWEDISH FORCES IN LEBANON, MADE CLEAR THAT HE CONSIDERS HIS PRIMARY TASK TO BE THE AVOIDANCE OF ANY DANGEROUS SITUATIONS FOR HIS MEN. WE UNDERSTAND THAT, ON AT LEAST ONE OCCASION, HE HAS THREATENED TO PULL ALL OF THE SWEDISH FORCES OUT OF EASTERN LEBANON. EARLY MARCH 27 HE TOLD UNTSO OFFICERS THAT HE WOULD NOT ORDER HIS MEN TO MOVE FORWARD TO ASSUME THEIR ASSIGNED POSITIONS IN EASTERN LEBANON
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 JERUSA 00885 271426Z

UNLESS AND UNTIL:
(A) HE HAD FIRM ASSURANCES THAT THE PALESTINIANS WOULD NOT SHOOT AT THEM;
(B) HE HAD CLEAR INSTRUCTIONS AS TO WHEN HIS MEN COULD FIRE; AND,
(C) AN APC WAS AVAILABLE FOR MEDICAL EVACUATION.

2. CURRENTLY THERE ARE 104 SWEDISH TROOPS WAITING AT MARKABA AND 105 TROOPS AT IBIL ES SAQY BOTH IN EASTERN LEBANON. EVENTUALLY, SWEDISH FORCES ARE SUPPOSED TO BE DEPLOYED AT FOUR LOCATIONS IN EASTERN LEBANON-- Khardala Bridge, Road Junction North of Marjayoun, IBIL ES SAQY, AND RASHAYYA AL FUKHKAF.

3. AS A RESULT OF ABOVE DIFFICULTIES, GENERAL SIILASVOU HAS JUST REQUESTED COLONEL'S REASSIGNMENT BACK TO HIS UNEF UNIT IN SINAI. INTENTION IS TO HAVE SWEDISH MAJOR ASSUME COMMAND OF SWEDISH FORCES IN UNIFIL. UNTSO HOPES THAT THIS WILL SOLVE PROBLEM AND ALLOW SWEDES TO TAKE UP THEIR ASSIGNED POSITIONS.

4. ON RELATED MATTER, FRONT PAGE STORY IN "JERUSALEM POST" MARCH 27 CASTS SCORN ON PERFORMANCE OF SWEDISH FORCES DURING INCIDENT WHICH TOOK PLACE NEAR BEAUFORT CASTLE ON MARCH 26. STORY STATES THAT SWEDISH FORCES "BROKE AND RAN" WHEN FIRING BROKE OUT WHILE "SMALL IDF FORCE HELD ITS GROUND, EXTRICATING ITSELF IN AN ORDERLY FASHION ONLY AFTER THE LAST SWEDISH UN SOLDIER HAD DISAPPEARED FROM THE SCENE." STORY ALSO GIVES UN VERSION OF EVENT AS FOLLOWS: "SWEDES CAME UNDER FIRE WHEN PALESTINIAN TERRORISTS ENTRENCHED IN CURSADER CASTEL FIRED ON THE NEAR-CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 JERUSA 00885 271426Z

BY LEBANESE CHRISTIAN TOWN OF MARJAYOUN AND CHRISTIAN MILITIA RETURNED THE FIRE." UN SOURCE IN BEIRUT IS REPORTED TO HAVE DENIED THAT PALESTINIANS FIREC DIRECTLY ON UN FORCES.

5. WE HAVE CHECKED WITH UNTSO WHICH SAYS THAT FACTS OF MATTER WERE THAT ABOUT 50 SWEDISH SOLDIERS WERE MOVING NORTH LATE MORNING MARCH 26 AND RAN INTO EXCHANGE OF FIRE BETWEEN CHRISTIANS AND PLO WOUTH OF BEAUFORT CASTLE. NONE OF THE FIRE WAS DIRECTED AT EITHER THE UN OR THE IDF EXCORTS ACCORDING TO UNTSO.

6. COMMENT: PROBLEM WITH SWEDISH COMMANDER POINTS UP KEY DIFFICULTY FACING UNIFIL AS IF PREPARES TO START PERFORMING ITS TASKS, I.E., RULES OF ENGAGENT FOR USE OF FORCE. WE UNDERSTAND THAT JONAH HAS STRESSED NEW YORK'S CONCERN THAT "UN FORCES NOT KILL ANYBODY." WE TRUST THAT UN CAN SORT OUT THIS PROBLEM SOON. PERHAPS EARLIER UN PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS MIGHT PROVIDE SOOME USEFUL PRECEDENTS.
NEWLIN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY PERSONNEL, TROOP DEPLOYMENT, PUBLIC ATTITUDES, INTERNATIONAL PEACEKEEPING FORCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978JERUSA00885
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780132-1061
Format: TEL
From: JERUSALEM
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780323/aaaaasxs.tel
Line Count: 115
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 3cc012bd-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3197304
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DIFFICULTIES WITH COMMANDER OF SEDISH UNIFIL CONTINGENT
TAGS: PBOR, MARR, IS, LE, XF, SW, UNSC, UNIFIL
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/3cc012bd-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014